

## Ipswich Agricultural Commission

### Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2023

**Members and Associates participating:** Jay Stanbury, Royce Knowlton, Norm Swanson, Shendel Bakal, Charlotte Kahn

**Members not present:** Eric Galiki

**Non-members present:** Eric Josephson, Carolyn Walfield

**Meeting Location:** Ipswich Town Hall, Room B-2

**Minutes:** The minutes for the Commission meeting on March 8, 2023 were approved.

**Citizens' queries and comment:**

- None

### Agenda Items

#### Community Garden

- Carolyn Walfield and Eric Josephson, representing the Ipswich Community Garden members, updated the Commission regarding their search for an alternative site for the garden. Possible sites include Bialek Park, property owned by Essex County Greenbelt, and others.
- The Commission discussed the possibility of writing to the Town urging it to allow the Community Garden group to have access to the current Pineswamp Road site through the summer of 2023. However, it was noted that although construction of the new public safety building probably won't begin until next Fall at the earliest, the town and its consultants will require access to the site for test pits and borings and similar pre-construction activities. It was agreed that for this reason the current site is no longer a viable option.
- The Commission also discussed possible obstacles with using Bialek Park. These included wetland issues and lack of water.
- The Commission agreed to help the Garden group contact other landowners, including Green belt, in its search for a new site.

### Other Business

- The Commission voted to continue its promotional program in the Local News during the summer, subject to available funding. It was reported that this program was successful in 2022.
- It was noted that the Earth Day raffle is moving forward. The Three Sisters farm will submit an invoice for \$100 to pay for the gift certificates to be offered to the winners of the clean-up challenge.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jay Stanbury  
Chair, Town of Ipswich Agricultural Commission